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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

003D.0043.U1 (US)

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on _____

Signature _____

Typed or printed name Ann Okrentowich

Application Number

10/532,838

Filed

04/19/2005

First Named Inventor

Pabst

Art Unit

2839

Examiner

Dinh, P. K.

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

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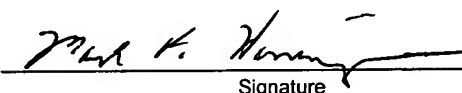
☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)

☒ attorney or agent of record.
Registration number 31,686

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____


Signature

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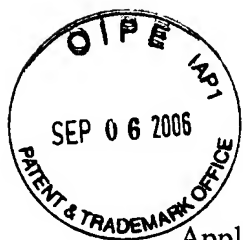
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NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/532,838

Confirmation No.: 9148

Applicant(s): Pabst et al.

Filed: 04/19/2005

Art Unit: 2839

Examiner: Dinh, Phuong K.

Title: Connector Arrangement Between a Flexible Ribbon Cable and a Component

Attorney Docket No.: 003D.0043.U1 (US)

Customer No.: 29,683

Commissioner For Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Arguments Accompanying Pre-Appeal Brief Request For Review

Sir:

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-16 have been allowed. Claims 18 and 21 have been objected to.

Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US 5,015,197) in view of Etters (US 6,010,359). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US 5,015,197) in view of Etters (US 6,010,359) and Robert (US 4,740,867).

Claim 17 claims electrical connection components with first and second housing parts and at least one elastic element connected to the second housing part. The first and second housing parts are adapted to capture a portion of a flat flex cable therebetween with a section of the flat flex cable, having stripped regions, being located at the at least one aperture. The elastic element comprises a metal member with at least one spring strip sized and shaped to be located between the first and second housing proximate the at least one aperture, wherein the elastic element is adapted to contact an opposite side of the flat flex cable and push the cable outward into the at least one aperture.

Redmond et al. discloses an electrical connector with a wire 54 bent into the shape shown in Fig. 2 and then inserted into the housing 62 as shown in Fig. 4. The wire 54 has a beam section 56 which extends out of the aperture 78 as shown in Fig. 4. The end 58 can slide forward when the beam section 56 is resiliently deflected into the aperture 78 when the beam section 56 contacts another member.

Etters et al. discloses an electrical connector system with a male connector 16 attached to a flat flexible circuit 12. The connector 16 has a resilient backing structure or rib 36. The figures show the rib 36 cross hatched for plastic material.

There appears to be no suggestion in the cited art to combine the teachings of Etters et al. with Redmond et al. In Redmond et al. the internal resistance to deflection of the wire 54 and its mounting in the housing (clamped at 52 and free to slide forward at 58) do not suggest use with a flat flexible cable or use with an additional elastic element to bias the wire 54 out of the aperture 78. Why would a person skilled in the art add an additional member as a resilient backing for the wire 54 when the wire 54 and its mounting in the housing 62 provides all the resistance to deflection of the wire that is needed? Again, the wire 54 itself has the resistance to deflection it needs without an additional resilient backing rib 36 or Etters et al. In Etters et al. the resilient rib 36 does not bias the flex circuit 12 out of an aperture. The resilient rib 36 merely forms a resilient backing for the flex circuit 12. There appears to be no suggestion to combine the use of the flex circuit 12 of Etters et al. and the resilient backing rib 36 of Etters et al. with the housing 62 of Redmond et al.

Why would a person skilled in the art be motivated to combine the teachings of Redmond et al. and Etters et al.? The motivation or suggestion only appears to become evident after reading applicants' patent application. Redmond et al. is directed to a connector for discrete wires 54; each wire 54 having its own internal resistance to deflection. There is no suggestion in Redmond et al. to use its connector with a flat flexible circuit. Etters et al. discloses a connector for use with a flat flexible circuit, but there is no suggestion to use the connector of Etters et al. with a mounting arrangement such as used in Redmond et al. or individual wires 54 of Redmond et al. The pegs 32, 34 of Etters et al. prevent a sliding movement of the flex circuit 12; a sliding movement which Redmond et al. teaches to use

with end 58 sliding forward (see Fig. 2 and the dashed lines). There appears to be no suggestion to combine Redmond et al. and Etters et al. except after reading applicants' patent application.

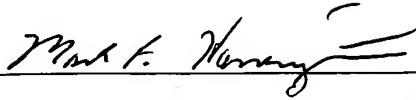
Even if, for the sake of argument, there is a suggestion to combine the teachings of Etters et al. with the teachings of Redmond et al., this still would not produce applicants' invention as claimed in claim 17. Claim 17 claims that the elastic element comprises a metal member with at least one spring strip sized and shaped to be located between the first and second housing proximate the at least one aperture. Neither Redmond et al. nor Etters et al. disclose or suggest a metal member. In Etters et al. the resilient backing rib 36 is merely cross hatched for plastic material. Thus, a combination of Redmond et al. and Etters et al. still does not produce or suggest applicants' invention as claimed in claim 17. In addition, if used with the wires 54 of Redmond et al., such a metal member would short circuit the wires 54 together.

Claim 20 claims that the at least one elastic element comprises a comb with spring steel strips parallel to one another. Roberts et al. discloses a comb-like spring member 32. However, there appears to be no disclosure or suggestion of using that member 32 with the connector or Redmond et al. If used with the wires 54 of Redmond et al., such a metal member 32 would short circuit the wires 54 together. There also appears no disclosure or suggestion of using the member 32 to bias a flex circuit out of an aperture; out of a housing. The member 32 merely biased the flex circuit in an internal cavity inside the housing.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Appl. No.: 10/532,838

Respectfully submitted,



8/31/06

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